

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2019

The President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are alarmed by the bombardment of innocent Syrian civilians in Idlib and Hama executed by Bashar al-Assad, his barbaric regime, and his cronies in Iran and Russia.

Three weeks ago, the attacks in Idlib began killing and wounding hundreds of civilians. Rescue workers described the situation in Idlib as an "unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe." This most recent bombardment has left 200,000 people displaced and completely destroyed 12 healthcare centers. According to the United Nations, the northwestern Idlib region is home to three million people. A spokesman for the White Helmets described the attacks by saying, "There is a first wave of barrel bombs dropped by helicopters. A few minutes later a jet will drop another wave of weapons hitting first responders. Then it's followed by a wave of artillery." The Assad regime is once again committing flagrant violations of international law, and continues to terrorize the Syrian people.

For eight years now, the Assad regime and its allies have slaughtered Syrians under the guise of fighting terrorism. This is a power grab by barbaric dictators, and has resulted in over 500,000 Syrians killed, more than 5.6 million refugees, and an additional 6.2 million internally displaced people fearing for their lives. Half of those affected are children, creating the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II.

We urge you to work to preserve the cease-fire established last year for the northwestern part of Syria. As the Department of State spokesperson said, "It is imperative to avoid large scale military offensives in Idlib, return to a de-escalation of violence in the area, and allow for unhindered humanitarian access to address the humanitarian disaster created by the ongoing violence." We look forward to working with you on this pressing issue.

Thank you for the consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Brendan F. Boyle

Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger

Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel Member of Congress

Ted Deutch Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres Member of Congress

Acee L. Hastings Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez Member of Congress

amie Raskin Member of Congress Michael McCaul Member of Congress

Joe Wilson Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick Member of Congress

Steve Chabot Member of Congress

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers Member of Congress Guy Reschenthaler Member of Congress

David Ville

fleaner Brooks

Daniel Kildee Member of Congress

Andre Carson Member of Congress Alex Mooney
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Greg Stanton Member of Congress

Steve Watkins Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider Member of Congress

Ann Wagner Member of Congress Steve Cohen

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Member of Congress